

AGNES ISHIKAWA AND SHIROI MORIYAMA

JULY 1, 1952.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. WILSON of Texas, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 7917]

The Committee on the Judiciary to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7917) for the relief of Agnes Ishikawa and Shiroi Moriyama, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of this bill is to facilitate the admission into the United States of two minor half-Japanese children to be adopted by citizens of the United States.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Ikard, the author of this bill, submitted the following documents which contain the pertinent facts with regard to this legislation.

WING LEGAL OFFICE,
THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FOURTH TROOP CARRIER WING (H),
APO 704, May 7, 1952.

Hon. ED GOSSETT,
United States Representative, Thirteenth District, Texas,
House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: As the wing legal officer at Tachikawa Air Base, I have been requested to advise Master Sgt. and Mrs. Benjamin R. Romero, of Wichita Falls, Tex., in connection with their proposed adoption of two foundling girls through welfare agencies here in Japan. After consulting with them at length, and preparing what I believe to be a complete file of the requisite documents, I am taking the liberty of seeking your assistance in the furtherance of this matter.

You are doubtless well aware of the many requests presented to the Congress for private legislation on behalf of similar alien children not otherwise eligible

for admission to the United States under our existing immigration and naturalization laws. It is to request that you introduce similar legislation on behalf of these small children that I address this matter to your attention at this time.

The background of the adoption is this: Both Sergeant and Mrs. Romero are mature individuals, and although they have been married for 10 years are at this time childless. The minor alien children in question are both girls of the ages of 4½ years and 1 year, respectively. The mothers of both children were Japanese, and the fathers presumably were unnamed American servicemen. Both children have been in the care of recognized welfare agencies prior to their having been turned over to the Romeros for care, support, and the proposed adoption.

Included in the documents forwarded for your consideration with regard to the elder child, Agnes, you will find an agreement between Our Lady of Lourdes Baby Home and the Romeros in addition to signed releases, which documents tend to indicate the legality of the release to the custody of the Romeros. With regard to the second child, known to date only as Shiroi Moriyama, please find an agreement, in both Japanese and English, signed by the guardian of the minor Japanese child.

In addition, as to both children, you will find copies of their respective census registers indicating that their official status with the Japanese Government is that of foundling. There is enclosed, also, letters from both wing chaplains with accompanying letters of recommendation from persons who have known the Romeros both in Japan and the United States. I have had both Master Sergeant and Mrs. Romero execute personal-history statements in the form of affidavits, setting forth pertinent and illuminating information about their respective backgrounds. In addition, you will find a copy of the marriage certificate evidencing the marriage of the prospective foster parents and certain attachments corroborative of the statements set out in Mrs. Romero's personal-history affidavit. Needless to say, both personally and officially, I heartily endorse the prospective immigration, naturalization, and adoption of these children.

Therefore, I am addressing this letter to you to request that you draft and present to the Congress a private bill on behalf of Master Sgt. and Mrs. Benjamin R. Romero, which legislation would permit the entry of these children into the United States for the purpose of adoption by this couple. Existing occupation regulations preclude the possibility, at this time, of entering into formal adoption proceedings in the Japanese courts. It is the intention of the Romeros to adopt these children under the laws of Texas, the State of their domicile. The Honorable Tom Pickett, of the Seventh District of Texas, at my request, drafted similar legislation on behalf of Staff Sgt. and Mrs. E. H. Shelton, which became Private Law 43 of the Eighty-second Congress, chapter 72, first session. The success of this bill, which was the first in a series of private legislation requested on behalf of foster parents on this base, was a source of great satisfaction to all of us here in Japan. Similar legislation has been drafted and presented on behalf of other couples on this base by the Honorable Mike Mansfield, of the First District of Montana; the Honorable Bob Sikes, of the Third District of Florida; the Honorable Charles B. Hoeven, of the Eighth District of Iowa; and by the Honorable Hamer H. Budge, of the Second District of Idaho, to enumerate a few.

I have this date addressed a similar letter to the Honorable J. M. Combs, of the Second District of Texas, requesting that he initiate similar legislation on behalf of another couple at this base. I feel sure that any of the above-mentioned Representatives will advise you of their efforts in this matter.

Your help in this matter will be greatly appreciated. In the event that you find that other supporting information might be needed, or know of any further assistance that I might render in the support of this bill, kindly advise me accordingly. I am sure that you realize the need for haste based on exigencies of the rotation policy, whereby the adopting parents might be compelled to abandon these children through forced return to the zone of the interior.

Anticipating that you will be so kind as to consent to act on behalf of this couple, permit me to thank you in advance for your courtesy in this instance. With kindest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

GEORGE J. GOLDSBOROUGH, Jr.,
Captain, USAF, Wing Legal Officer.

HEADQUARTERS,
THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FOURTH TROOP CARRIER WING (H),
APO 704.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Benjamin Romero, master sergeant, USAF, APO 704, after having been read the twenty-fourth Article of War, and after having been told that it is not necessary for me to answer any questions that might tend to degrade me or to incriminate me, and that any statement made by me may be used against me, do hereby make the following statement:

STATEMENT

I, Master Sgt. Benjamin Romero, was born at Aguilar, Colo., and finished school there, but have spent most my adult domestic service in Texas.

After school, I served 4 years in China. I left there during Japan's war with China, returning to the United States to reenlist in the Air Force.

I have 15 years in service and will serve one more 6-year hitch before I retire, at which time it is my desire to enter civil service.

Although the initial cost of clothing and caring for my two adopted children has somewhat reduced my bank account, I can anticipate no hardships in the rearing and educating of them in the years to come.

We have had the two children in our home for the past several months and only our separation from them now could impose any hardship on my wife and I.

BENJAMIN ROMERO,
Master Sergeant, USAF.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of April 1952, at APO 704.

GEORGE J. GOLDSBOROUGH, Jr.,
Captain, USAF, Judge Advocate.

HEADQUARTERS,
THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FOURTH TROOP CARRIER WING (H),
APO 704.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Mrs. Ben Romero, after having been read the Twenty-fourth Article of War, and after having been told that it is not necessary for me to answer any questions that might tend to degrade me or to incriminate me, and that any statement made by me may be used against me, do hereby make the following statement:

STATEMENT

I, Mrs. Ben Romero, was born at Uteleyville, Colo., my father having gone there from Waco, Tex., for reasons of health; I was born soon after my parents' arrival there. I attended Colorado schools until the death of both my parents several years later, at which I was sent to relatives in Texas. There I finished school, married, and raised one child.

Wichita Falls, Tex., has been my home for the past 22 years.

My first husband, Walter Lawler, was killed by the Fort Worth & Denver R. R. before the birth of my son, Paul Lawler, now nearing 17 years of age. I later married Benjamin R. Romero, whom I met while he was stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base.

During World War II I served 2 years in the Women's Army Corps.

I am part owner of 320 acres of farm land in eastern Colorado.

Mrs. BENJAMIN ROMERO.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of April 1952, at APO 704.

GEORGE J. GOLDSBOROUGH, Jr.,
Captain, USAF, Judge Advocate.

JANUARY 18, 1952.

To Whom It May Concern:

This certifies that I have interviewed Technical Sergeant and Mrs. Benjamin Romero, concerning adoption of a child from Seiyu Home, Asagaya.

They have a nice home and are financially capable of assuming this responsibility. They are of sound character and have promised to see that the child is taken to and nurtured in the Protestant faith.

KENNETH E. HARTMAN;

Chaplain (Maj.), USAF, Protestant Chaplain.

OFFICE OF THE CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN,
THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FOURTH
TROOP CARRIER WING (H),
APO 704, San Francisco, Calif., March 15, 1952.

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that the undersigned Catholic chaplain has thoroughly interviewed Master Sgt. and Mrs. Benjamin Romero and is satisfied that they will provide a happy home and loving care for the child they wish to adopt.

I am also satisfied that they will raise the child in the Christian religion.

BERNARD F. SCHUMACHER,

Chaplain (Captain), USAF.

THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOURTH SUPPLY SQUADRON,
THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOURTH MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY GROUP,
January 17, 1952.

Subject: Letter of character reference.

To Whom It May Concern:

I have personally known Master Sgt. Benjamin R. Romero, AF18046375 for approximately 7 months. Sergeant Romero has been a model airman and is highly respected by all members of this organization and the Japanese employees under his supervision. Sergeant Romero's character has been above reproach in the time that I have known him. His morals are high and he has always performed his duties in a very commendable manner. I would highly recommend Sergeant Romero for any position of trust and would desire to have him serve in my command at any future time in my military career.

The home they will provide for the child, I know, is nice and harmonious. I strongly urge the passage of legislation to permit entry of the child into the United States.

MAURICE E. WALLACE,

Captain, USAF, Adjutant.

DENVER, COLO., April 7, 1952.

To Whom It May Concern:

We the undersigned have known Master Sgt. Benjamin R. Romero all his life and Mrs. Romero for the last 7 years. We have visited them several times in the past in their home and it is our sincere belief that they are capable financially, morally, and physically of raising the two children they have adopted.

It is our hope that the passage of legislation of the bill will permit the entry of the children into the United States upon the return of their foster parents.

MR. FRANK R. ROMERO.

Mrs. FRANK R. ROMERO.

WICHITA FALLS, TEX., April 11, 1952.

To Whom It May Concern:

We the undersigned have known Mrs. Benjamin R. Romero all her life, and her husband, Master Sgt. Benjamin R. Romero, for 12 years. In the past we have visited them in their home and have entertained them frequently in our home and it is our belief that they are capable morally, physically, and financially of raising the two children they have adopted.

It is our sincere hope that legislation will be passed permitting them to bring their children home to the zone of the interior upon their return.

Very truly yours,

M. M. INGHAM.
WINNIE INGHAM
(Mrs. M. M. Ingham).

Upon consideration of all the facts in this case, the committee is of the opinion that H. R. 7917 should be enacted and accordingly recommends that the bill do pass.

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AGNES ISHIKAWA AND SHIROI MONTANA

It is our opinion that the information will be made available to them to bring their children home to the care of the father upon their return.

July 1957, Tokyo

M. M. INGRAM,
WIKING INGRAM
(Miss M. M. Ingram)

I can recommend to all the facts in this case. The committee is of the opinion that H. R. 7017 should be enacted and accordingly recommends that the bill do pass.

